

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at column 1, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

-- In gas production technology, the autothermal ~~fluidized~~ entrained flow gasification of solid, liquid and gaseous combustion materials has been known for years. The ratio of combustion material to gasification agents containing oxygen is selected in such a way that, for reasons of synthesis gas quality, the higher carbon compounds are completely cracked into synthesis gas components such as CO and H₂, while the inorganic components are extracted as molten slag (see, i.e., J. Carl, P. Fritz, *Noell-Konversion-Verfahren*, EF Verlag fuer Energieund Umwelttechnik GmbH, 1996, p. 39). --

Please replace the paragraph starting at column 1, line 48, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Gasification systems equipped with refractory-grade linings have the advantage of lower heat losses, and thus provide energy-efficient conversion of the supplied combustion materials. However, such systems can be used only for ash -free-combustion materials, because the molten slag that flows down the interior surface of the reaction chamber during the ~~fluidized~~ entrained flow gasification process dissolves the refractory-grade lining. This means that only limited reactor runs are possible before costly relining becomes necessary. --

Please replace the paragraph starting at column 2, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to the invention, the contour of the reaction chamber for the gasification process, which can involve a ~~fluidized reactor or a fixed bed reactor~~ gasification reactor, is bordered in part by a refractory-grade lining and in part by a cooled screen. --